

Bitterroot Job Service Employers' Committee Meeting Minutes December 19, 2006

Present:

Vikki Bell, Ravalli County Bank	Becky Brough, Hamilton Schools
Betty Lund, Ravalli County	Jess Lohse, Rocky Mountain Truss
Tracy Klapwyk, Burton's Brand Source	Patty West, Office of Public Assistance
Pat Easley, Bitterroot Valley Chamber	Mark Seitz, Citizens State Bank
Zana Westfield, Accu-Tax	Linda Valentine, HRC, WIA Youth
Patti Furniss, Bitterroot JSWC	Cindy Beck, Albertson's
Kathleen Cannon-Siegle Bitterroot JSWC	Vickie Steele, Bitterroot JSWC

Introductions: Introductions were made with business affiliations. A "welcome aboard" to Greg Sangster of Apex Services in Stevensville. His interest in the Bitterroot JSEC is very much appreciated.

Minutes: The November minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: In Debbie's absence, Cindy reported the JSEC account balance as \$3,994.24 from Debbie's emailed figures.

Guest Speakers: Joanne Perkins, Ravalli County Coordinator for Summit Independent Living Center, is the chair for the Ravalli County Transportation Advisory Committee (RCTAC). Sharna Paddock is the Transportation Coordinator for the Bitterroot Bus. Joanne distributed brochures on RCTAC. The purpose of the committee is to act in an advisory capacity to help develop and sustain public transportation services to serve the needs of Ravalli County residents. RCTAC promotes communication, coordination and cooperation among transportation providers to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public transit. She distributed forms for the "Nomination for Transportation Stakeholder Group Five Valleys Regional Transit Study" and brochures on RCTAC. If interested, please return completed forms to Sharna at the Ravalli County Council on Aging. Joanne is requesting new members and community input from all areas of Ravalli County. She reported that better transportation would benefit commuters, large employers and would provide opportunities to those new to the workforce system with no available transportation.

Job Service Update: Patti distributed the One-Stop Business Plan 09/06. She reported that we are approved as a One Stop Center. Yahoo! There will be an on-site visit the end of January by Linda Woods, Director of Trapper Creek Job Corps Center and a member of the State Workforce Investment Board. Patti said this status may be helpful in applying for grants in the future. Patti distributed information on the BEAR (Business Expansion and Retention) program and mentioned that it is a tool to retain current businesses. Patti quoted Governor Schweitzer's endorsement: "The BEAR program is an exciting investment for existing businesses. It will help local economies by giving folks tools they need to be sustainable in their community and the information to grow their businesses in innovative ways." Patti said that the Bitterroot Job Service Workforce Center is working with the Chamber and Economic Development Authority on this large project. Patti attended a meeting last month in Helena on the USDOL level. Rick Maher, from New Jersey, presented how we need to be transforming the Workforce System into making it relevant. "Relevant" is the new term that we will hear a lot about. We must be responsive to the needs of our employers and communities. Patti said that our budget is being drastically reduced. She explained the "fee for services" philosophy and asked for feedback from committee members. Patti thanked the Bitterroot JSEC for being so very helpful and valuable in purchasing DVDs/videos for the HR library and providing financial assistance for other projects when requested.

Mission Statement: Tabled until next month. There was consensus to get input from everyone as the mission statement has not been reviewed for a long time.

Seminars: Pat Easley reported that the Steve Beck seminar sessions are scheduled for March 13, 2007 (1:00-5:00 p.m.) and March 14, 2007 (8:00-noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.). The maximum capacity for the conference room at Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital is approximately 80. There are enough chairs available but we will need to rent some tables.

A Fond Farewell: Betty Lund was profusely thanked for her support and contributions to the Bitterroot JSEC these past years. Patti said that Betty has been "fabulous" and always so very helpful. Happy retirement, Betty!

Meeting adjourned.